IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:

first acquiring means for acquiring [[the]] a number of times information contents are downloaded over a network;

second acquiring means for acquiring [[the]] a number of times said information contents are reproduced; and

computing means for computing a pricing index for said information contents based on a ratio of the number of times said information contents have been downloaded as acquired by said first acquiring means and on the number of times said information contents have been reproduced as acquired by said second acquiring means.

Claim 2 (Original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information contents include audio-visual information.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An information processing method comprising the steps of:

acquiring firstly [[the]] a number of times information contents are downloaded over a network;

acquiring secondly [[the]] a number of times said information contents are reproduced; and

computing a pricing index for said information contents based on a ratio of the number of times said information contents have been downloaded as acquired in said first acquiring step and on the number of times said information contents have been reproduced as acquired in said second acquiring step.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A storage medium which stores a program in a manner readable by a computer, said program comprising the steps of:

acquiring firstly [[the]] a number of times information contents are downloaded over a network;

acquiring secondly [[the]] a number of times said information contents are reproduced; and

computing a pricing index for said information contents based on a ratio of the number of times said information contents have been downloaded as acquired in said first acquiring step and on the number of times said information contents have been reproduced as acquired in said second acquiring step.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): An information processing apparatus comprising:

holding means for holding information contents;

first transmitting means which, in response to a request issued by another information processing apparatus, transmits said information contents from said holding means to the request-issuing information processing apparatus over a network; and

second transmitting means for transmitting a notification to yet another information processing apparatus counting the number of times said information contents have been transmitted, said notification saying that said information contents have been transmitted by said first transmitting means.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): An information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said information contents include audio-visual information.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): An information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said holding means further holds supplementary information attached to said information contents; and

wherein said second transmitting means further transmits said supplementary information.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): An information processing method comprising the steps of:

acquiring information contents;

in response to a request issued by an information processing apparatus, transmitting firstly said information contents acquired in said acquiring step to the request-issuing information processing apparatus over a network; and

transmitting secondly a notification to another information processing apparatus counting the number of times said information contents have been transmitted, said notification saying that said information contents have been transmitted in said first transmitting step.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A storage medium which stores a program in a manner readable by a computer, said program comprising the steps of:

acquiring information contents;

in response to a request issued by an information processing apparatus, transmitting firstly said information contents acquired in said acquiring step to the request-issuing information processing apparatus over a network; and

transmitting secondly a notification to another information processing apparatus counting the number of times said information contents have been transmitted, said

notification saying that said information contents have been transmitted in said first

transmitting step.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): An information processing apparatus comprising:

acquiring means for acquiring information contents over a network;

holding means for holding said information contents acquired by said acquiring

means;

reproducing means for reproducing said information contents held by said holding

means; and

transmitting means for transmitting a notification over said network to another

information processing apparatus counting the number of times said information contents

have been reproduced, said notification saying that said information contents have been

reproduced by said reproducing means.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): An information processing apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein said holding means further holds supplementary information attached to said

information contents; and

wherein said transmitting means further transmits said supplementary information.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): An information processing method comprising the steps of:

acquiring information contents over a network;

holding said information contents acquired in said acquiring step;

reproducing said information contents held in said holding step; and

transmitting a notification over said network to an information processing apparatus

counting the number of times said information contents have been reproduced, said

notification saying that said information contents have been reproduced in said reproducing

step.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A storage medium which stores a program in a manner

readable by a computer, said program comprising the steps of:

acquiring information contents over a network;

holding said information contents acquired in said acquiring step;

reproducing said information contents held in said holding step; and

transmitting a notification over said network to an information processing apparatus

counting the number of times said information contents have been reproduced, said

notification saying that said information contents have been reproduced in said reproducing

step.